

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS:

Please replace the original sheets illustrating Figures 4, 6A and 6B, 6C, and 7 (i.e., sheet 4 of 8, sheet 6 of 8, sheet 7 of 8, and sheet 8 of 8, respectively) with the replacement sheets illustrating Figures 4, 6A and 6B, 6C, and 7.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (4)
Replacement Sheets (4)

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, Claims 3 and 11 have been amended and new Claim 25 has been added. Claims 1-25 are pending, of which Claims 15-24 have been allowed. The title and drawings have been corrected to accord with Examiner's instructions.

On pages 3-4, the Office Action rejects Applicants' independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Boser et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,676,694), Safarevich et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,676,694), and Cross et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,935,159).

The cited references do not show or describe a resistance weld formed between a portion of the conductor and the component as recited in Applicants' independent Claim 1. For example, referring to the Cross reference, a resistance weld is not formed between the conductor (element 104, 106, 108, or 110 in Figure 3) and the component (core 102 in Figures 2 and 3). Indeed, the Cross reference expressly states that its design eliminates the need for additional attachment means to secure the conductor within the component. See, for example, column 2, lines 46-69.

The Boser and Safarevich references also do not teach or suggest a resistance weld as recited in Applicants' Claim 1. Instead, each of these references describes a laser weld. See, for example, column 4, lines 59-64 of the Boser reference and column 2, lines 52-54 of the Safarevich reference. A resistance weld is structurally different than a laser weld; i.e., a resistance weld has different structural characteristics than a laser weld due to the manner in which the resistance weld is produced (e.g., under a compressive force).

It should thus be appreciated that Applicants' independent Claim 1 recites structure not shown in the cited references. In view of this, Claim 1 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is allowable.

Applicants' Claims 2-10 and 12-14 are believed to properly depend from independent Claim 1 and are believed allowable therewith.

This notwithstanding, Applicants have amended independent Claim 3 to recite that (1) the component comprises a substantially tubular body, and (2) the surface in which the groove is formed is an inner surface of the tubular body. The cited references do not show or describe a groove formed in the inner surface of a tubular body in this manner.

New Claim 25 depends from independent Claim 1 and recites that (1) the component comprises an elongated body, and (2) that the groove comprises a longitudinal slot substantially parallel with the body's longitudinal axis. The cited references do not suggest or show these features: e.g., in the Safarevich reference, ring member 94 does not comprise an elongated body; in the Cross reference, core 102 does not comprise an elongated body; and, in the Boser reference, groove 314 (Figure 6) does not comprise a longitudinal slot substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of tubular portion 313.

As indicated on page 5 of the Office Action, Applicants' Claims 15-24 are allowed. Applicants' Claims 6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants' Claim 6 indirectly depends from Applicants' independent Claim 1 and is believed allowable therewith. Applicants' Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the features originally found in Applicants' intervening Claim 2.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R. PAVLIK et al.

October 23, 2006
Date

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry
Reg. No. 41,600
(763) 514-4673
Customer No. 27581